

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESERVES CREDIT FOR FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the President and the Congress said that we should set aside the future Social Security surpluses 100 percent for Social Security. Then the President startled us all because he came here for the State of the Union and he said let us spend 38 percent of Social Security on 71 new spending programs. Then he submitted a budget that said, no, let us spend 42 percent of Social Security on those new spending programs.

The House rejected that budget and yesterday the House sent a strong message to the President that it was not going to support his tax increase, and last night it appears that the President finally got the message and he has agreed to a budget that will save Social Security.

It appears that we have broken the President's addiction to new taxes and higher spending. I applaud the President for joining Republicans saying we are going to balance the budget, save Social Security, and do without taxes.

But I cannot applaud the minority leader, who still remains addicted to spending and taxes, who press accounts say have instructed Democrats to obstruct the process, vote no on everything, make sure we tie up everything as much as we can.

The person who deserves credit, Mr. Speaker, is Speaker HASTERT who has led us with this fiscal discipline.

SAVE US FROM REPUBLICAN GRAB BAG OF GIMMICKS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my alarm over the Republicans' handling of the budget.

First they gave us the Robin-Hood-in-reverse strategy, take from the poor and give to the rich. That was a big tax cut for the rich where most of the money went to the wealthiest Americans and regular, average citizens got very little.

When that did not work they now come up with a grab bag of gimmicks. That is \$46 billion in gimmicks to disguise the fact that they are in fact raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. They are trying to tell us now that the census is emergency funding. They are trying to tell us that routine military funding is emergency spending, a grab bag of gimmicks.

But third, they now have the fiction of saving Social Security, when the Congressional Budget Office has clear-

ly stated they are already raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to the tune of \$13 billion and at the rate they are going they will reach \$24 billion.

So save us from their strategy, save us from their gimmicks, and save us from their fiction.

What we need is real cooperation on addressing America's real needs and a sound budget that does not benefit the wealthy.

TALK IS CHEAP—TIME FOR ACTION HAS ARRIVED

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to essentially commend the leadership of this House and the administration for getting together and agreeing that Social Security needs to be saved. But the time for talk is done. The time for action has arrived.

The problem that we face is that we have yet to receive a single piece of evidence as to what the administration's plan for saving Social Security is.

We have gone from January 6, the day I arrived here, now 293 days without any evidence whatsoever from the administration as to what their plan is for saving Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate but true. Facts are facts. There is no plan yet put forward by the administration to save Social Security. Talk is cheap. The time for action is now. Every day older, the further behind we get.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to put his plan forward.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE TEEN CONFERENCE

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of three of my constituents who are participating in the Voices Against Violence Teen Conference in the Capitol this week.

Susan Yang is a senior from La Crosse Central High School. Susan has been involved in efforts to curb youth violence and drug use throughout her teens and is a real role model within the Hmong community in western Wisconsin.

Lucas Meyers is a senior at Hudson Senior High School in Wisconsin. Lucas is the student body President and editor-in-chief of his school paper and is a natural leader involved in many aspects of his community and school.

Finally, Sergeant Roger Barnes of La Crosse Police Department, who is a coordinator for the D.A.R.E. and the

G.R.E.A.T. programs back home. Sergeant Barnes has dedicated his law enforcement career to the betterment of youth in our community and works tirelessly to see that all our children have better options in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay attention to what they and the other 350 students who have assembled here in the Capitol this week have to say at this conference so that we may work together in a bipartisan fashion to implement policy to prevent youth violence in all of our communities.

EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let us talk education. We can all agree on the need to spend money on our public schools. And I hope we can also agree that America's parents have not been getting their money's worth.

Student achievements continues to lag even as spending rises. A lack of discipline plagues thousands of classrooms. School accountability to parents is sorely missing. Many teachers are not getting the training they need to teach their students what they need to know.

So why do so many liberal Democrats continue to oppose real education reform? How can they say they want strong public schools while they vote for the very regulations that weaken public schools?

These advocates of the status quo are defending the indefensible. They are trapping America's most disadvantaged children in a system that has failed them. And they are putting the future of millions of American children in jeopardy. It is long past time to fix the broken system. It is past time to try new ways of doing things, but it is not too late.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ON THE TABLE AND BALANCED

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to some of our earlier speakers this morning and I wonder what their question is and why they do not have an answer.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget has been on the table, and it is a balanced budget. It does protect Social Security and Medicare. It is interesting that they are on a fishing expedition on the other side of the aisle, looking for the President's budget and wondering what is the direction that this Congress should take.

Well, the one direction we should not take is the gimmickry that we see on

the other side. Republicans will have the kinds of gimmicks that will result in a \$13-billion, if you will, deficit resulting on-budget deficit to about \$23 billion or \$24 billion.

I think there is plain common sense. Adopt the President's budget. Be serious about saving Social Security and Medicare. Stop misrepresenting to the American people. And begin to fund the great needs that we have in this country.

But, most of all, tell our seniors and those who are looking for Social Security that we are committed in a bipartisan way to save Social Security and to save Medicare.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows, last week the Congressional Budget Office reported that the Federal Government, for the first time in nearly 40 years, avoided spending any of the Social Security Trust Fund forward other Government programs.

I hear this business about \$13 billion from the other side. They know that that was based on an inquiry with false presumptions, none of which ever came about.

What I would like to say is, for the first time, the Social Security surplus bottom line is in the black. This in itself is the single-most important budgetary accomplishment that Congress, and I mean all of Congress, has achieved in years.

But we should not lose sight how we got here. In 1995, when the Republican Congress took charge, we organized spending priorities. We got a lot of bipartisan support. All of this was done in an effort to protect the American taxpayers' money and strengthen vital programs like Social Security.

Yet earlier this year, the President proposed dipping into the surplus by \$57 billion. Now he is threatening to veto certain bills because they do not spend enough. That is hardly an effort to protect Social Security. Stop the raid on Social Security.

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VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, students and their chaperons from all over the country have come here to be voices against violence. This poster board has postcards from chaperons across the country. I read one:

Please talk about the importance of developing a new model of education in this country. We now need a longer school day built around a holistic health model with education as a component. Children need to know themselves, feel good about themselves and have a hope about the future. We must have a system that cultivates and nurtures youth to become productive, well-adjusted citizens.

These 2 days have been wonderful days wherein our folk can come to the Hill and they are saying to us, let us get on with funding education appropriately. They are saying, let us deal with violence, let us deal with gun control, and let us see that the children of our Nation are nurtured, well-developed, healthy and have an opportunity to become useful citizens.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY: STOP THE FOREIGN AID RAID

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we were told all along that the President would veto the foreign operations bill because he wanted to spend more money on foreign aid. And sure enough, he vetoed the bill.

Then we were told that he really did not want to spend more money on foreign aid like we had been told all along, what he really wanted was more money in the bill so he could reduce foreign aid and spend the money elsewhere. Uh-huh.

Look. Republicans in Congress have made a commitment to protect Social Security. We have stopped the 30-year raid on the Social Security trust fund. And we are not about to begin to renew that raid in order to satisfy the President's insatiable appetite for foreign aid spending.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Republican Congress, those who receive Social Security benefits today and those who hope to benefit from the Social Security fund tomorrow finally have reason to believe that the trust fund is protected. Let us not return to the bad old days. Let us stop the foreign aid raid.

ON THE GOP BUDGET

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a history quiz. Who created Social Security in April 1935?

The answer, a Democratic President and a Democratic-led Congress despite fierce opposition from the Republican Party. In fact, only one Republican voted in favor of maintaining Social Security. Now we are expected to believe that the Republicans are going to save Social Security, something they never wanted in the first place?

Let us just listen to Republican Majority Leader DICK ARMEY. During his first campaign for the House in 1984, ARMEY said that Social Security was a "bad retirement" and a "rotten trick" on the American people. He continued, and I quote, "I think we're going to have to bite the bullet on Social Security and phase it out over a period of time." That was from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 1984.

In January 1985, ARMEY said, and I quote, "One thing that is very clear to us from the history of the Social Security system in this country is that the Federal Government is incapable of administering a compulsory retirement program in a manner that gives the public a secure and predictable future."

The GOP's own CBO estimates say that the Republican budget already dips into Social Security by more than \$18 billion.

REGARDING FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in Washington it is important not just to listen to the words people say. It is important to watch what they do.

This week, President Clinton vetoed the foreign ops appropriations bill because he said it did not spend enough money. The President wants Congress to give him more money even though any extra spending would have had to come from the Social Security surplus.

It is revealing that the President would veto a foreign aid bill that spends \$12 billion, billions for ensuring peace in the Middle East, millions for fighting disease throughout the world, millions more for fighting the war on drugs, among other things. How much more money does the President need, Mr. Speaker?

Instead of working with Congress to fight the spread of narcotics and to preserve democracy and freedom in the world, the President applied the ink of the veto pen. The President said "no" to a reasonable bill and he says he needs more money, higher spending. What else is new?

OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN STRAIGHT F'S BILL

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise as the former superintendent of my State's schools to express my concerns about H.R. 2300, a bill which the House will consider later this week.

The Republican leadership has labeled this bill the "Straight A's" bill.